

Remarks

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 9-62 are pending in the application, with claims 9, 31, 41 and 54 being the independent claims.

The specification has been amended to perfect the priority claim. The amendment of priority does not change the earliest priority application being claimed. Support for the incorporation by reference of the newly added priority applications can be found in the originally filed specification at page 1, lines 2-6.

The specification has also been amended to insert the Substitute Sequence Listing, submitted herewith, which now reflects the correct priority claim. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.821(f), the paper copy of the Sequence Listing and the computer readable copy of the Sequence Listing submitted herewith in the above-captioned application are the same. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.821(g), this submission includes no new matter.

These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested. Consideration of this Amendment and reconsideration of this application are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Applicants believe the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

Ulfenau reg No. 47,473

for Eric K. Steffe
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 36,688

Date: 10/9/03
1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934
(202) 371-2600

SKGF_DC1:186891.1